

Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 BANGKO 06489 160452Z

15

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 FDRE-00 AID-05 EUR-12 DPW-01

CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SCS-03 SCA-01 /084 W

----- 028770

Z 160415Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 2790

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON FLASH

S E C R E T BANGKOK 6489

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, TH, VS, CB

SUBJ: EVACUATION OF AMERICANS AND OTHER NATIONALS FROM PHNOM

PENH WHO CHOSE TO STAY BEHIND ON APRIL 12

CAMBODIA-B NO. 30

REF : STATE 086454

1. IN ORDER TO GIVE MEANINGFUL REPLY TO REFTEL, AMBASSADOR DEAN CALLED ON FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOFFIN AT 9:00 A.M. APRIL 16. AMBASSADOR DEAN FIRST EXPLAINED THAT THE PEOPLE NOW ASKING TO BE EVACUATED FROM PHNOM PENH HAD BEEN GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO LEAVE WITH US ON APRIL 12, BUT HAD REFUSED AND HAD INDICATED THAT THEY WISHED TO STAY BEHIND. THESE SAME PEOPLE NOW WOULD LIKE TO BE EVACUATED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ABOVE ALL AMB DEAN STRESSED THE HUMANITARIAN AND INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF ANY KIND OF OPERATION TO HELP THE PEOPLE IN QUESTION. HE POINTED OUT THAT NOT ONLY AMERICANS ARE INVOLVED, BUT ALSO BRITISH, FRENCH, GERMANS AND SWEDES (BANGKOK 6471). UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AMBASSADOR DEAN INQUIRED:

(A) HAVE ANY FRENCH EMBASSY PERSONNEL REMAINED IN THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BANGKO 06489 160452Z

FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND IN PHNOM PENH? IF SO WHO, AND WHAT IS THEIR FUNCTION?

(B) DOES FRENCH EMBASSY BANGKOK STILL HAVE SECURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH ITS SISTER "ESTABLISHMENT" IN PHNOM PENH?

(C) COULD COMMERCIAL HELICOPTERS (NOT US MILITARY CRAFT) LAND IN FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND IN PHNOM PENH? I STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF A SECURE LANDING ZONE FOR SUCCESS OF RESCUE MISSION AND THAT IS REASON WHY NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT SCHANBERG AND OTHERS IN PHNOM PENH HAVE SUGGESTED AND ARE THINKING OF USING FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND, WHICH IS SURROUNDED BY HIGH FENCE AND HAS AREA SUITABLE FOR LANDING HELICOPTERS FOR OPERATION.

2. IN REPLY, AMBASSADOR TOFFIN SAID:

(A) FRENCH OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED GRUNK ON APRIL 12.

(B) MR. JEAN DYRAC, WHO IS A VICE CONSUL IN FRENCH CONSULAR SERVICE, AND A SMALL STAFF ARE STILL OPERATING IN THE FRENCH EMBASSY COMPOUND IN PHNOM PENH AS OF YESTERDAY, APRIL 15. HE IS A "CARE-TAKER" AND HAS NO AUTHORITY TO MAKE DECISIONS.

(C) FRENCH EMBASSY BANGKOK HAS SECURE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PHNOM PENH ONLY ONCE A DAY VIA PARIS. IT TAKES ANYWHERE FROM 24-48 HOURS TO GET MESSAGES THROUGH. IN ADDITION, THE FRENCH EMBASSY HAS RADIO CONTACT IN THE CLEAR WITH THE FRENCH ESTABLISHMENT IN PHNOM PENH EVERY MORNING.

(D) AMBASSADOR TOFFIN DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER PARIS WOULD ACQUIESCE IN LANDING OF COMMERCIAL HELICOPTERS ON FRENCH EMBASSY PROPERTY IN PHNOM PENH FOR PURPOSE REQUESTED. HE POINTED OUT THAT FRENCH ACQUIESCENCE TO USE OF FRENCH EMBASSY AS LANDING ZONE TO EXTRACT THOSE WHO WISH TO LEAVE MIGHT BE INTERPRETED BY GKR OR GRUNK AS COLLUSION WITH THE OPPOSITE SIDE AND COULD GET FRENCH GOVERNMENT IN THE MIDDLE OF THINGS WHERE IT DOES NOT WISH TO BE. HOWEVER, REALIZING THE HUMANITARIAN ANGLE AND FACT SEVERAL DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES ARE INVOLVED, HE IS SENDING QUERY TO FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE RIGHT AWAY TO OBTAIN INSTRUCTIONS. IN ANY CASE, HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE REPLY BEFORE MORNING APRIL 17 BANGKOK TIME.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BANGKO 06489 160452Z

3. COMMENT. SYDNEY SCHANBERG PLANNING OPERATION USING FRENCH COMPOUND WITHOUT RECEIVING PRIOR ACQUIESCENCE OF FRENCH AUTHORITIES IS COMPLETELY UNREALISTIC. THIS IS REASON WHY AMBASSADOR DEAN CONSIDERED IT ESSENTIAL TO DISCUSS MATTER WITH FRENCH SINCE THEY WILL BE INVOLVED IF THIS ALTERNATIVE IS TO BE USED. AMBASSADOR DEAN AGREES WITH DEPT THAT PRESENT SECURITY CONDITIONS IN PHNOM PENH POSE GREAT RISK TO UNARMED OPERATION OF THIS NATURE, AND THUS BOTH HELICOPTER PILOTS AND POTENTIAL EVACUEES WOULD HAVE TO UNDERTAKE OPERATION

ENTIRELY AT THEIR OWN RISK. SCHANBERG AND OTHERS HAD THEIR CHANCE TO DEPART ON APRIL 12 AND WE CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT EVERYBODY IS FULLY AWARE THAT SUCH UNCOORDINATED LAST-MINUTE OPERATION HAS MUCH LESS CHANCE OF SUCCESS THAN CAREFULLY PLANNED EAGLE PULL EXTRACTION.

4. AMBASSADOR DEAN THINKS IN ADDITION TO WORKING ON WAYS OF EXTRACTING THE PEOPLE IN QUESTION, THEY SHOULD BE ADVISED TO SEEK REFUGE UNDER RED CROSS FLAG. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ICRC HAS 15 PEOPLE LEFT IN PHNOM PENH WHO MOVED TO PHNOM HOTEL WHERE AMERICAN NEWSPAPERMEN ARE ALSO STAYING. SUGGEST DEPT ADVISE GALLOPIN OF ICRC IN GENEVA TO CABLE URGENTLY HIS MEN IN PHNOM PENH TO GRANT AMERICAN CITIZENS PROTECTION IN THE EVENT LATTER CANNOT LEAVE PHNOM PENH PRIOR TO ENTRY OF KC INTO CITY.

5. ALTERNATE SCHEME TO USING FRENCH EMBASSY GROUNDS FOR EXTRACTION BEING TRANSMITTED BY FLASH CABLE. MASTERS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO006489
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750132-0230
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750444/aaaaboxl.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 086454
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <19 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION OF AMERICANS AND OTHER NATIONALS FROM PHNOM PENH WHO CHOSE TO STAY BEHIND ON APRIL 12
TAGS: CASC, AEMR, TH, VS, CB, US, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006